Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 6, on page 3 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

- the end-piece comprises an arrangement for laterally maintaining adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods, which the maintaining arrangement ~~maintenance arrangement~~ is arranged in nodes of the substantially regular network,

Please replace paragraph 7, on page 3 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

- the maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement comprises housings for receiving the adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods,

Please replace paragraph 8, on page 3 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

- the maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement constitutes an arrangement for longitudinally securing the adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods relative to the terminal end piece,

Please replace paragraph 5, on page 4 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

- the end-piece comprises an arrangement for laterally maintaining adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods, which the maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement is arranged in nodes of the substantially regular network,

Please replace paragraph 6, on page 4 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

- the maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement comprises housings which receive the adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods,

Please replace paragraph 7, on page 4 of the Substitute Specification, with the

following amended paragraph:

- the maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement constitutes an arrangement for longitudinally securing the adjacent longitudinal ends of the fuel rods relative to the terminal end-piece,

Please replace paragraph 7, starting on page 17 of the Substitute Specification, with the following amended paragraph:

It will again be appreciated that the presence, in the end-piece 7, of a maintaining ~~maintenance~~ arrangement, or an arrangement for laterally and/or longitudinally securing all the rods 3, may be envisaged separately from the use of noses 39 for orientating the flow of coolant water along the rods 3 because they independently allow the risks of vibration of the fuel rods 3 to be limited.